



Department of Justice

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ST. LOUIS AREA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ST. LOUIS, MO - Lewis Jones pled guilty to producing child pornography--and faces a mandatory minimum of fifteen years in prison, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

“Exploiting children for your own gratification is disgusting and preying on the young violates not only their innocence, but their ability to trust,” said Hanaway.

From August through December, 2004 Jones persuaded a minor to engage in sexual activities with him so that he could videotape and photograph the sex acts.

Jones, 45, 4900 Block of East Ashland, St. Louis, 63115, pled guilty to one felony count of production of child pornography today before Senior United States District Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh.

Jones now faces a **mandatory minimum** of fifteen years in prison and a maximum of 30 years and/or fines up to \$250,000. Sentencing has been set for March 19, 2007.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

Hanaway commended the work on the case by St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Regional Computer Crimes Education and Enforcement Group, and Assistant United States Attorney Hal Goldsmith, who is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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